

## PRESBYTERIANISM.

### The General Assembly of the Church at Memphis.

Specially Reported for the Union and Dispatch.

SIXTH DAY.

The Assembly convened pursuant to adjournment. Unfinished business being in order, the "Canons of Discipline" were again called up and acted upon, until the order of the day arrived, when the Rev. Chas. A. Davis, D. D., a delegate from the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, was introduced, and addressed the Assembly.

Like Dr. Palmer, he did not believe in platform speeches in a body and at a time like the present. He would have little to say; he had not anticipated addressing the Assembly. In May last, his church had appointed him a delegate to this body. His commission was duly made out and given him; he had taken it, carried it home and carefully placed it away, so carefully that he had not been able to find it since. Having thus lost his commission he had given up all idea of having anything to say on this occasion; in fact he had become quite lukewarm upon the subject, and given it but very little thought. Some years ago he had attended an Assembly in the State of Missouri, where a delegation from the Reformed Church was received, the representative delegates by the Reformed church said many things that pleased us and our Moderator replied in language equally pleasant. All present seemed highly pleased; and he (the speaker) was forced to ask himself if all these Presbyterians have a common faith and common feelings, why are they divided? Why are these people two people? But what was the result of this interview? Only a little talk. If this was all, and this is all that is to result from his presence on the present occasion, he certainly had lost but little in losing his papers. He saw but little good to result from talk, and therefore he proposed to say but little. He received no instructions, and he would only present the kind and Christian salutation of his Church. In doing this he knew that he was speaking the heart of the whole Cumberland Presbyterian body. This was the first Assembly he had attended, and yet he could not refrain from expressing the fact that he felt at home here—that he felt as one of this body. The relations between the Cumberland Church and this body were the most intimate and friendly. In the name of his brethren and his Church he would say to the old Church, God-speed in the good work. God-speed in spreading enlightenment and Christianity throughout the land. He had listened to the deliberations of the Assembly, and he had repeatedly asked "why is this body one and my Church another?" There were no other reasons, no difference, that justified this division, and he hoped to see the day when it no longer exists; there was no barrier to prevent a re-union, and he would hail with peculiar delight the adoption by this body of some measures looking to the consummation of this end. He had sometimes entertained the thought that the Old Church did not appreciate his own. The Cumberland Church was organized in 1810, and it had since grown up until it now numbers about one hundred thousand communicants. It had become a body whose labors were worth something, whose prayers were worth something, and whose money was worth something; they too are all Presbyterians, and suppose the two were united—were one—how much greater would be their influence for good? He further remarked that on questions of state the two churches agree, and in doctrine they were not far apart. The fathers of his church had considered themselves badly treated by certain synods; they would not submit to what they regarded as oppression, and set up for themselves. If they had been afforded a hearing in the General Assembly, the matter would have been adjusted, and the churches would probably now have been one as they were formerly one. He alluded to the idea which was entertained by some that it was the will of God that separations should take place, that Christians should be divided, and that denominations should be formed according to the different tastes and sentiments of mankind. He had never been able to indorse such a doctrine; he was not willing to stultify himself by saying "I am right, and the man who differs from me is right too." The true church could have but one heart and one soul; Jesus had prayed that his people might be one; Presbyterians should be one, and it should be a feeling of pride with the Church to consummate this end. The speaker concluded by remarking that he was not authorized to make any overture of union to the Assembly, but he was convinced the time had arrived when some movement should be made in this direction. His Church loved the old Church; he felt at home in their churches and in their pulpits, and he looked forward to the day when the two should be but one.

To the address of Dr. Davis the Rev. Moderator, A. H. Kerr, D. D., responded on behalf of the Assembly.

He remarked to the reverend gentleman that his presence afforded the Assembly the profoundest satisfaction. The old church was in the new one of its daughters; one of its own dear offspring. They had eye upon them. The allusions made to the union of the two churches in one, as they are already one in feeling and faith, gave evidence of the basis upon which this end might be brought about. "And that these words might have weight," he continued, "I may say that I know this brother who has come among us. I know him well. I know him in heart and in heart. I know him in faith to be an old and out Presbyterian, and as I know him I honor, respect and love him." The speaker then extending his hand to the delegate, concluded: "What you have said respecting the feelings and the faith of your church will be earnestly and prayerfully considered, and when you return to them, say, in behalf of this Assembly, God speed in the righteous work of our common Lord and Master."

At the conclusion of the Moderator's remarks, the Rev. Dr. Baird offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the subject of Christian Union, brought before this Assembly by the Rev. Dr. Davis, in his address, be referred to the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, with instructions to report a suitable minute, and that Rev. Dr. Palmer, J. P. Atkinson, and Geo. J. S. Walker, be added to the said committee.

The Rev. Dr. Cummings, from the Standing Committee on Domestic Missions, submitted the following report:

The committee, to whom was referred the domestic missionary report, beg leave to say that they have carefully and prayerful-

ly considered it, and in view of all its facts and arguments, would recommend to the Assembly the adoption of the following resolutions, viz:

Resolved, That this report be approved, and that it be directed to be printed in the appendix of our minutes.

Resolved, That in the ability granted to the Committee of Missions, chiefly through the liberality of friends outside and beyond the bonds of our church, whereby they have been enabled to relieve the pressing necessities of so many of our impoverished ministers, and to render aid to many of our public churches in rebuilding their demoralized sanctuaries, this Assembly recognizes with gratitude the good hand of our God upon us, and feel encouraged to go forward with renewed zeal and confidence in the great work that God is doing in the world, and to persevere in the work.

Resolved, That, reduced as our resources were by the ravages of war, and as widespread as is the field within our bounds, and load as is the call for a vastly augmented outlay of money and labor, this Assembly is constrained to regard the cultivation of this field as the peculiar work that God has given us to do. Not only does it lie within our territorial limits, but the sympathies of its Presbyterian population are with us. To us they look for help. The work is ours, and if done at all, must be done by us.

Resolved, That in humble reliance on Divine Grace, we accept the Providential commission and command put into our hand, and we hereby solemnly pledge and consecrate ourselves to the Church we represent to its accomplishment, not doubting that the grace that will enable us to perform it.

Resolved, That it be hereto enjoined upon the ministers to present all sinners at an early day, to all the churches in which they labor, and that the sessions in said churches are hereby required to give the people under their care an opportunity of contributing of their substance for its accomplishment.

Resolved, That all our Presbytery are hereby called upon to take the subject up at their earliest convenience, and that they see to it that everything is done that can be well and wisely done; first, to supply their own destitutions, by engaging the services of any minister under their care, without charge, with suitable remuneration, and by directing their pastors and stated supplies to devote at least two weeks to missionary labors; and, secondly, to augment the general funds of the church, under the direction of the central committee.

The report of the committee, as made by Dr. Cunningham, was adopted. A second part of the same report was also presented by the Rev. Dr. Rice, and placed upon the docket.

It was made the special order for 10 o'clock to-morrow, to consider the relation of the church to the freedmen.

The Rev. Dr. Howe, from the Committee on Bills and Overtures, reported as follows:

OVERTURE NO. 9.—Being resolutions of the Alabama Presbytery of the Associate Reformed Church, seeking a union with this body, and the resolution of the Presbytery of South Alabama in response. It would be according to the wishes of the Assembly, if it could immediately communicate, by its own act, the Union which these Presbyteries so earnestly desire. But in the written constitution of our church, the erecting uniting and dividing of presbyteries is enumerated among the prerogatives of synods. This Assembly do, therefore, authorize the Synods of Alabama to receive into union with itself the Alabama Presbytery of the Associate Reformed Church, provided it shall adopt the forms of government and rules of discipline of our own Church, wherein they may differ from theirs; that this presbytery be received as co-ordinate with the presbytery of South Alabama; that the synod, after this reception, proceed to dissolve the two Presbyteries, which, if continued, will cover one and the same territory; that out of the constituents of these bodies they form a new Presbytery, the ministers of which shall be enrolled according to their seniority.

2. This Assembly recognizes, as preceding Assemblies have done, the right of our members to use the old psalmody, commonly known as "Ramsay's Version," if they prefer it, and will protect the ministers and Churches thus received into connection with us from the Associate Reformed Church, in the use of that psalmody to which they have been so long accustomed.

3. That the same order may be observed by other synods in the inception of organized Presbyteries of the Associate Reformed Church within their Synods, if need so require, without further action of this body. Adopted.

The Assembly held an afternoon session and continued the consideration of the canons.

At 7 P. M. the Assembly met with the Second Presbyterian Church.

The report of the Committee on Foreign Missions was read.

Rev. Mr. Copeland of the Indian Mission, Rev. Mr. Inslee of the China Mission and Rev. Stuart Robinson gave interesting addresses.

**TENNESSEE LEGISLATURE.**

**Senate.**

Monday, November 26, 1866.—The Senate met pursuant to adjournment, Mr. Speaker Frisbie in the chair.

House resolution providing for a joint select committee to take into consideration all bills and resolutions in reference to the franchise question was taken up, and Messrs. Senter, Thompson, and Aldridge were appointed on the part of the Senate.

Mr. Carrigan presented a report from the Select Committee on Public Printing, recommending Senate bill No. 43, in lieu of Senate bill No. 42, to authorize the State to publish the laws of the State. The bill offered was adopted in lieu, providing that the same be allowed for compensation for said publication as now authorized by law.

Thompson offered joint resolution No. 5, as follows:

Whereas, This General Assembly adjourned on the 5th day of May, 1866, to meet on the 5th day of November, 1866, to wind up the unfinished business of the General Assembly, and adjourn on the 10th day of December, 1866, therefore be it

Resolved, That no new business shall be introduced after the 1st day of December, 1866, as in the judgment of this body that the term expires on that day.

The resolution was laid over under the rule.

Mr. Thompson offered the following resolution, which lies over under the rule:

Be it resolved, That the Treasurer of State be required to report to the Senate as soon as convenient what amount he has paid to commissioners registration, together with the amount paid for stationery, and what will be the probable amount required to execute the statute properly.

**HOUSE BILL NO. 436.** For the relief of the Nashville and Decatur Railroad, to allow said company to charge the same rates for passengers and freight as the East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad, was rejected.

House bill No. 437: To authorize the county of Sumner to sell her stock in the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, was rejected.

Senate bill No. 408: To amend an act incorporating the Tennessee and Pacific Railroad Company, was taken up on its third reading.

Mr. Bryant offered amendments, which were adopted, and the bill passed by yeas and nays 17 yeas, 12 nays.

House bill No. 438: For the relief of the Nashville and Decatur Railroad, to allow said company to charge the same rates for passengers and freight as the East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad, was rejected.

House bill No. 439: To authorize the county of Sumner to sell her stock in the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, was rejected.

Senate bill No. 409: To amend an act incorporating the Tennessee and Pacific Railroad Company, was taken up on its third reading.

Mr. Bryant offered amendments, which were adopted, and the bill passed by yeas and nays 17 yeas, 12 nays.

House bill No. 440: For the relief of the Nashville and Decatur Railroad, to allow said company to charge the same rates for passengers and freight as the East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad, was rejected.

House bill No. 441: To authorize the county of Sumner to sell her stock in the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, was rejected.

Senate bill No. 410: To amend an act incorporating the Tennessee and Pacific Railroad Company, was taken up on its third reading.

Mr. Bryant offered amendments, which were adopted, and the bill passed by yeas and nays 17 yeas, 12 nays.

House bill No. 442: For the relief of the Nashville and Decatur Railroad, to allow said company to charge the same rates for passengers and freight as the East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad, was rejected.

House bill No. 443: To authorize the county of Sumner to sell her stock in the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, was rejected.

Senate bill No. 411: To amend an act incorporating the Tennessee and Pacific Railroad Company, was taken up on its third reading.

Mr. Bryant offered amendments, which were adopted, and the bill passed by yeas and nays 17 yeas, 12 nays.

House bill No. 444: For the relief of the Nashville and Decatur Railroad, to allow said company to charge the same rates for passengers and freight as the East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad, was rejected.

House bill No. 445: To authorize the county of Sumner to sell her stock in the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, was rejected.

Senate bill No. 412: To amend an act incorporating the Tennessee and Pacific Railroad Company, was taken up on its third reading.

Mr. Bryant offered amendments, which were adopted, and the bill passed by yeas and nays 17 yeas, 12 nays.

House bill No. 446: For the relief of the Nashville and Decatur Railroad, to allow said company to charge the same rates for passengers and freight as the East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad, was rejected.

House bill No. 447: To authorize the county of Sumner to sell her stock in the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, was rejected.

Senate bill No. 413: To amend an act incorporating the Tennessee and Pacific Railroad Company, was taken up on its third reading.

Mr. Bryant offered amendments, which were adopted, and the bill passed by yeas and nays 17 yeas, 12 nays.

House bill No. 448: For the relief of the Nashville and Decatur Railroad, to allow said company to charge the same rates for passengers and freight as the East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad, was rejected.

House bill No. 449: To authorize the county of Sumner to sell her stock in the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, was rejected.

Senate bill No. 414: To amend an act incorporating the Tennessee and Pacific Railroad Company, was taken up on its third reading.

Mr. Bryant offered amendments, which were adopted, and the bill passed by yeas and nays 17 yeas, 12 nays.

House bill No. 450: For the relief of the Nashville and Decatur Railroad, to allow said company to charge the same rates for passengers and freight as the East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad, was rejected.

House bill No. 451: To authorize the county of Sumner to sell her stock in the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, was rejected.

Senate bill No. 415: To amend an act incorporating the Tennessee and Pacific Railroad Company, was taken up on its third reading.

Mr. Bryant offered amendments, which were adopted, and the bill passed by yeas and nays 17 yeas, 12 nays.

House bill No. 452: For the relief of the Nashville and Decatur Railroad, to allow said company to charge the same rates for passengers and freight as the East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad, was rejected.

House bill No. 453: To authorize the county of Sumner to sell her stock in the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, was rejected.

Senate bill No. 416: To amend an act incorporating the Tennessee and Pacific Railroad Company, was taken up on its third reading.

Mr. Bryant offered amendments, which were adopted, and the bill passed by yeas and nays 17 yeas, 12 nays.

House bill No. 454: For the relief of the Nashville and Decatur Railroad, to allow said company to charge the same rates for passengers and freight as the East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad, was rejected.

House bill No. 455: To authorize the county of Sumner to sell her stock in the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, was rejected.

Senate bill No. 417: To amend an act incorporating the Tennessee and Pacific Railroad Company, was taken up on its third reading.

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